

# Appointments with Dr Ruth Surman

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## What to bring to your first appointment

- Your (parent) questionnaire completed
- School questionnaire completed
- Referral from your General Practitioner / Doctor
- Relevant documents (please make copies of the important ones for us to keep)
  - Consultation Letters (e.g. Doctors)
  - Reports from Professionals (e.g. Psychologists, Therapists)
  - Pathology Reports (e.g. Genetic testing results)
  - Reports from School
  - If your child is currently seeing a professional (e.g. Speech Pathologist), please ask for a brief summary of the current issues and plan.

You can **scan and email** these documents to [cdn@cd.net.au](mailto:cdn@cd.net.au) or you can bring them to your first appointment. The Clinicians will want to read through them prior to speaking with you.

## What to expect

Your **first visit** is to meet your child, and to understand your concerns. How far we are able to proceed with this depends on the information already available, and how complicated the issues are.

The **second visit** is generally about putting together an explanation for what is going on, leading into a discussion of what can be done.

Please note that the time allocated to these visits (60 minutes) includes the time taken to read information provided, and time taken to dictate a letter of consultation. This means that the face to face time will be shorter.

After the second appointment I put together a letter of consultation addressed to your referring doctor, with a copy also to yourself.

## Who should attend

For both initial visits it is requested that both parents (if both are involved in the child's ongoing care) should attend. If that is not possible, I ask that both parents attend the second visit, which is when the issues are discussed, decisions taken and plans made.

Alternatively, if there are others (such as grandparents) who are closely involved, they are welcome to be part of the conversation if that is appropriate for you. If there are matters you wish to discuss without your child present, but it may be difficult for your child to be alone in the waiting room during this conversation, please bring somebody who can support your child during this time.